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“New Pacific Community’ Has US, Asia Sharing Ideas.” According to an unnamed senior US official, President Clinton’s concept for a “New Pacific Community,” as demonstrated by Secretary of State **Christopher’s** visit this week, calls for a sharing of policy ideas with America’s Asian friends. (930726)

Translated Title: EU y Asia comparten ideas en torno “nueva comunidad del Pacifico.”; M **Christopher** et les reunions de l’ANASE a Singapour. (930726)

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Text: “NEW PACIFIC COMMUNITY” HAS U.S., ASIA SHARING IDEAS

(U.S. official briefs on **Christopher** trip) (1210) By Robert F. Holden USIA Staff Writer Singapore — President Clinton’s concept for a “New Pacific Community,” as demonstrated by Secretary of State **Christopher’s** visit to Asia this week, calls for a sharing of policy ideas with America’s Asian friends, according to a senior U.S. official.

During a background briefing on the secretary’s plane prior to his arrival in Singapore for the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conferences (PMC) July 24, the official said: “We’re not just out here to lay out blueprints.

“The secretary is coming out here — as the president did earlier in Tokyo — to listen as well as to propose. It is very important that we, both in reality and in style, make clear to our Asian friends that we want to get their ideas and not just lay down American prescriptions,” the official said.

“Yes, we’ll show leadership. Yes, we have ideas of our own,” the official said. “But we mean it when we say we want to hear what their ideas are — to consult with our friends.”

The administration expects the secretary’s appearance at the meeting to strike a balance between dynamism in proposing ideas, and being genuinely receptive to the ideas of others and factoring them into U.S. policy decisions, the official said.

The secretary of state is going out to the Asia-Pacific region to begin the implementation of President Clinton’s vision of a “New Pacific Community,” to flesh out the economic, security and democracy promotion themes expounded by the president in his speeches at Waseda University and in Korea, the official said.

This is **Christopher’s** third trip to the region in the past six months, and it is one of a series of trips by senior administration officials that have already taken place, the official said. These trips, the official said, “underline the administration’s interest in the Asia-Pacific region, the fact that we’re going to stay on in this region and, indeed, that we’re going to be playing a strong leadership role in this region.”

There are three components to this trip, the official said — the ASEAN meeting itself, the series of bilateral meetings that take place on the margins of the PMC between the six ASEAN members, seven dialogue partners and observers, and **Christopher’s** visit — with Under Secretary of Defense Frank Wisner — to Australia.

The United States will pursue its economic interests at the ASEAN PMC on global, regional and bilateral levels, the official said. “On the global level, we’re going to press for the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round,” the official said. “ASEAN is one of the major initiators of the Uruguay Round and would be one of the major beneficiaries, so we hope that this conference would reinforce the new momentum toward concluding the Uruguay Round by the end of the year,” the official said.

On the regional level, the official said, **Christopher** will encourage countries to accept President Clinton’s invitation to attend an informal leadership conference in conjunction with the U.S.-hosted Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) ministerial in Seattle in November.

On the bilateral front, the secretary will be pursuing U.S. economic interests in discussions with its ASEAN trade partners as well as with other conference attendees. He will also meet with American business leaders in the region, the official said.

At the ASEAN PMC, the secretary of state will follow up on the four security-related elements of the “New Pacific Community,” as laid out by the president in his Korea speech, the official said.

“The first one is that we will maintain our alliances and our military presence,” the official said. “In ASEAN we have two treaty allies — the Philippines and Thailand — plus we have access agreements in the wake of the Philippine bases closing where the ASEAN countries have all made available some facilities.”

The second theme, the official said, is non-proliferation. “We’ll talk about this in some of the conference sessions and in some of the individual bilateral meetings,” the official said. “Obviously, this is relevant with respect to China and their alleged exports of missiles and other dangerous technology. It’s relevant to discussions with South Korea because of the North Korea nuclear challenge. And it’s relevant to our discussions with Russia where we’ve just had a major breakthrough on the non-proliferation front.”

ASEAN itself is important to the cause of non-proliferation, the official said, primarily in areas that require export controls such as chemical weapons and electronic components for missiles.

The third element, a new departure from the policies of past administrations, is regional security dialogue, the official said. “We will maintain our alliances and we will maintain a full military presence,” the official said. “Regional dialogues are on top of those foundations. They supplement them, they do not supplant them.”

The official cautioned that the dialogues will not result in “instant formal security structures. We’re talking about incrementally exploring how you can shore up security in this region.”

“Asia is not Europe,” the official said. “In Asia the idea is not to build up blocs against a common threat. It’s for potential antagonists, for countries which harbor potential apprehensions about other countries to have a chance to talk to each other directly and try to relieve misperceptions...(and) try to head off confrontation, ease tensions and perhaps build up confidence over time.”

Southeast Asia will not necessarily be the only area where the United States will support such a framework, the official said. “We probably will need one for Northeast Asia as well. But this one can cover, not only Southeast Asian problems, but those of the whole region because we have a dialogue not only with the ASEAN countries but with the other dialogue partners — Canada, Australia, **New Zealand**, Korea, Japan, and the European Community,” the official said.

The security issues discussed under this framework can also be divided into global, regional and bilateral areas, the official said. Global security issues include U.N. peacekeeping and non-proliferation, the official said, while regional issues will touch on the Cambodian peace process, the Korean nuclear question, and the Spratley Islands dispute.

“On the bilateral level,” the official said, “in terms of reaffirming our alliances, during the course of these meetings the secretary will be meeting with each of our treaty partners separately — Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Thailand and Australia.”

The official maintained that this particular ASEAN PMC will be particularly significant because the participants will decide how to begin to integrate other major Asia-Pacific players in the process, including Russia and China, as well as Vietnam, Laos and Papua New Guinea. This could be pivotal, the official said, because it could draw Russia and China, as well as the other countries, into direct security discussions.

Finally, the official said, the secretary will emphasize the high priority the Clinton administration places on the promotion of democracy and human rights. “Each country has to find its own way, but there are some universal human rights — recently reaffirmed at the Geneva conference — and, with respect to democracy, open societies make for a more peaceful world,” the official said. NNNN